

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

1. (Currently Amended) An edible fat-based shell for a confection comprising: a packaging support having a desired shape that defines a volume therein; and one or more walls of consistent thickness that are formed directly on the packaging support from an amount of an edible shell-forming composition comprising one or more fats, wherein the composition has a plastic viscosity of about 10 to 40 Poise and a yield value of about 50 to 250 dynes/cm² prior to forming the shell on the support.
2. (Currently Amended) The edible fat-based shell of claim 1 having the walls have in the shape of a cup, cone, or other open top receptacle and including ~~which further comprises~~ a filling ~~that is~~ at least partially retained within the shell.
3. (Original) The edible fat-based shell of claim 2, wherein the filling is a confectionery that completely fills the shell.
4. (Original) The edible fat-based shell of claim 2, wherein the filling comprises an ice confection.
5. (Original) The edible fat-based shell of claim 4, wherein the ice confection comprises ice cream, sherbet, or water ice and is present in an amount that extends beyond the open top of the receptacle so as to be provided as an exposed mass for easy consumption.
6. (Original) The edible fat-based shell of claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises an emulsifier in an amount of no more than 1% by weight of the composition and a sweetener.

7. (Original) The edible fat-based shell of claim 6, wherein the emulsifier comprises lecithin, ammonium phosphatide, polyglyceryl polyricinoleate, citric acid ester of mono-glycerides or combinations thereof.

8. (Original) The edible fat-based shell of claim 6, wherein the sweetener comprises sugar, dried honey, corn syrup solids, lactose, anhydrous dextrose, malitol, xylitol, lactitol, mannitol, polydextrose, acesulfame K, sucralose, aspartame, or combinations thereof.

9. (Original) The edible fat-based shell of claim 6, wherein the edible shell-forming composition includes the fat in an amount of between about 15 and 38% by weight, the emulsifier in an amount of about 0.05 to 0.65% by weight, and the sweetener in an amount of about 25 to 60% by weight.

10. (Original) The edible fat-based shell of claim 1, wherein the shell has the shape of a cone.

11. (Original) The edible fat-based shell of claim 10, wherein the cone has a crenelated top rim.

12. (Original) The edible fat-based shell of claim 1, wherein the shell includes inclusions on an inner surface.

13. (Original) The edible fat-based shell of claim 12, wherein the inclusions comprise nuts, cookie crumbs, cereal, fruit pieces, chocolate chips, candy pieces or coconut.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~confectionery item~~ edible fat-based shell of claim 1, wherein the packaging support is a non-absorptive food grade material comprising paper, foil, transparent, translucent or non-transparent plastic, or a laminate thereof.

Claims 15. to 33. (Cancelled)

34. (New) An ice confection comprising a packaging support having a desired shape that defines a volume therein; an edible fat-based shell comprising one or more walls of consistent thickness that are formed directly on the packaging support from an amount of an edible shell-forming composition comprising one or more fats, wherein the composition includes an emulsifier in an amount of no more than 1% by weight of the composition and a sweetener, and has a plastic viscosity of about 10 to 40 Poise and a yield value of about 50 to 250 dynes/cm² prior to forming the shell on the support; and a filling of an ice confection in the shell.

35. (New) The ice confection of claim 34 wherein the edible fat-based shell has walls in the shape of a cup, cone, or other open top receptacle.

36. (New) The ice confection of claim 35, wherein the filling is a confectionery that completely fills the shell.

37. (New) The ice confection of claim 35, wherein the filling is an ice confection.

38. (New) The ice confection of claim 34, wherein the filling is an ice cream, sherbet, or water ice and is present in an amount that extends beyond the open top of the receptacle so as to be provided as an exposed mass for easy consumption.

39. (New) The ice confection of claim 34, wherein the emulsifier is lecithin, ammonium phosphatide, polyglyceryl polyricinoleate, citric acid ester of mono-glycerides or combinations thereof.

40. (New) The ice confection of claim 34, wherein the sweetener is sugar, dried honey, corn syrup solids, lactose, anhydrous dextrose, malitol, xylitol, lactitol, mannitol, polydextrose, acesulfame K, sucralose, aspartame, or combinations thereof.

41. (New) The ice confection of claim 40, wherein the fat is present in an amount of between about 15 and 38% by weight, the emulsifier is present in an amount of about 0.05 to 0.65% by weight, and the sweetener is present in an amount of about 25 to 60% by weight.

42. (New) The ice confection of claim 34, wherein the edible fat-based shell has the shape of a cone.

43. (New) The ice confection of claim 42, wherein the cone has a crenelated top rim.

44. (New) The ice confection of claim 34, wherein the packaging support is a non-absorptive food grade material comprising paper, foil, transparent, translucent or non-transparent plastic, or a laminate thereof.

45. (New) The ice confection of claim 34, wherein the edible fat-based shell includes inclusions on an inner surface thereof.

46. (New) The ice confection of claim 45, wherein the inclusions comprise nuts, cookie crumbs, cereal, fruit pieces, chocolate chips, candy pieces or coconut.